

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Lent

THE GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* arr. Page

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God is the water that restores our souls.
People: And God is in the night when we lose our way.
Leader: God is in today and tomorrow, raising up leaders, prophets and dreamers.
People: God is in the wilderness with us—every step of the way.
Leader: So with confidence we declare—
People: If God is in those spaces, then God is surely here.
Leader: Let us worship the God of Creation.
All: Let us worship the God of wilderness spaces.

*HYMN 409 *God Is Here!* ABBOT'S LEIGH

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus of Nazareth, there are stories of your healing the blind all over scripture. You were constantly opening people's eyes. So today we confess that we choose to keep our eyes closed. We turn away from injustice in our world, worried you might ask us to work for change. We close our eyes to our privilege, because the truth is uncomfortable. We avoid eye contact with those who are suffering to avoid identifying with their pain. Forgive us for failing to be your Church in the world. Guide us from the depths of our wilderness to your light. Amen.

Time for silent confession

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.
People: **And also with you.**

THE WORD

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 23

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 9: 1-41

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Stories We Tell

Rev. Beth Newman

OUR THANKFUL RESPONSE

CHORAL ANTHEM

Hope of the World

Larson

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Brief Statment of Faith (PCUSA)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Meditation on Wondrous Love* arr. Phillips

*THE DOXOLOGY

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

*PRAYER AFTER THE OFFERING

*HYMN 451 *Open My Eyes That I May See* OPEN MY EYES

THE SENDING

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

***May the love of God go with you from this place.
May your hours and days show forth His praise.***

POSTLUDE

Aeolian Fanfare

Callahan

**Rise in body or spirit.*

Cover Art: *Siloam* by: Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession by Rev. Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art

Leading in worship today:

Pastor: Rev. Beth Newman

Minister of Music: Rachel Lackey

Elder of the Month: Martha Rich

Announcements

WELCOME VISITORS! If you are worshipping here for the first time today, Welcome! We are glad to have you join in our worship service.

SUNDAY SERVICE: Sunday service is at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary. It is also on Facebook Live Stream.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH AND TEENS: Middle and High School Sunday School are invited to a conversation about scripture beginning in the youth room at 10:00.

NURSERY: Young children are invited to go to the nursery after the children's sermon. Activity bags are available in the narthex.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING: Join with Presbyterians worldwide to provide relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. This donation will be taken up Easter Sunday.

BOOK STUDY: The Book Study will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 2:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to join us as we discuss the book by Kate Bowler *Everything Happens for a Reason and other Lies I've Loved*. Kate is the keynote speaker for the Montreat Women's Conference in August.

EASTER LILIES: Easter Lily Forms are included in your bulletin. They will be used to decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. You can purchase one in memory or in honor of someone.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: There will be a brief congregational meeting after worship service Sunday, March 26th to elect a nominating committee. Drew Campbell will chair this committee.

VINTAGE MOVIE NIGHT: Friday, March 31st we will have a Vintage Movie Night in the Fellowship Hall. More details will be forthcoming.

POTLUCK LUNCHEON: Good Friday, April 7th will be the Community Potluck Luncheon located in the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church. Please take a potluck dish or dessert to share by 11:20 a.m. The Community Lunch and Holy Week Devotion will begin at noon. Monetary donations are appreciated and go to the Transient Fund of the Swain Pastors Association.

EASTER BREAKFAST AND EGG HUNT: The Presbyterian Men will be cooking breakfast Easter Sunday, April 9th, which will be at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. An Easter Egg Hunt will start at 10:00 a.m.

CRAFTING WITH JACKIE: Craft meetings with Jackie will be postponed until further notice. Spring and Summer are such a busy time for everyone. We will notify you when sessions resume.

SAVE THE DATE: The Church Retreat at William Black Lodge will be August 25th through the 27th. More details will be forthcoming.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES:

Communion - Every first Sunday of the month.

Choir Practice - Every Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Bible Study - Every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m.

Back Porch Bible Study - Sundays from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at the home of Martha Rich. For more information call Martha at 770-851-6852.

Session Meeting - The fourth Sunday of every month after worship service.

Women's Breakfast - Every Thursday at 8:00 a.m. at Mountain Perks except for the second Thursday of each month when the location will be decided on.

Men's Breakfast - Every Thursday at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Daily Change Offering - Every second Sunday of each month.

Presbyterian Women - The second Tuesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. You can come early, bring your lunch and have fellowship.

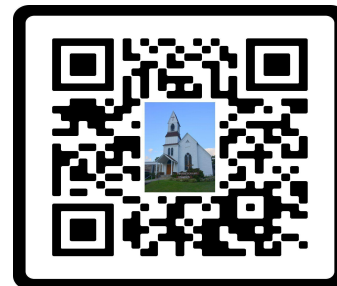
Coffee & Fellowship - Every first Sunday after worship service.

Manna Express - Fourth Friday of every month in the First Baptist Church parking lot from 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon.

Food Pantry - Every Tuesday 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and every Friday 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

Giving Spoon - Every Monday 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and every Thursday 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

AA Meetings - Monday at noon, Tuesday 5:30 p.m., Thursday at noon, and Saturday at 7:00 p.m.



This is a QR Code and can be scanned by your phone's camera. If your phone does not have this capacity, you can download an app. This code is linked to the church's Paypal account.

YTD Financials	
Unrestricted Giving	\$38,355
Operating Expenses	\$32,832
Operating Excess/Deficit	\$ 5,523

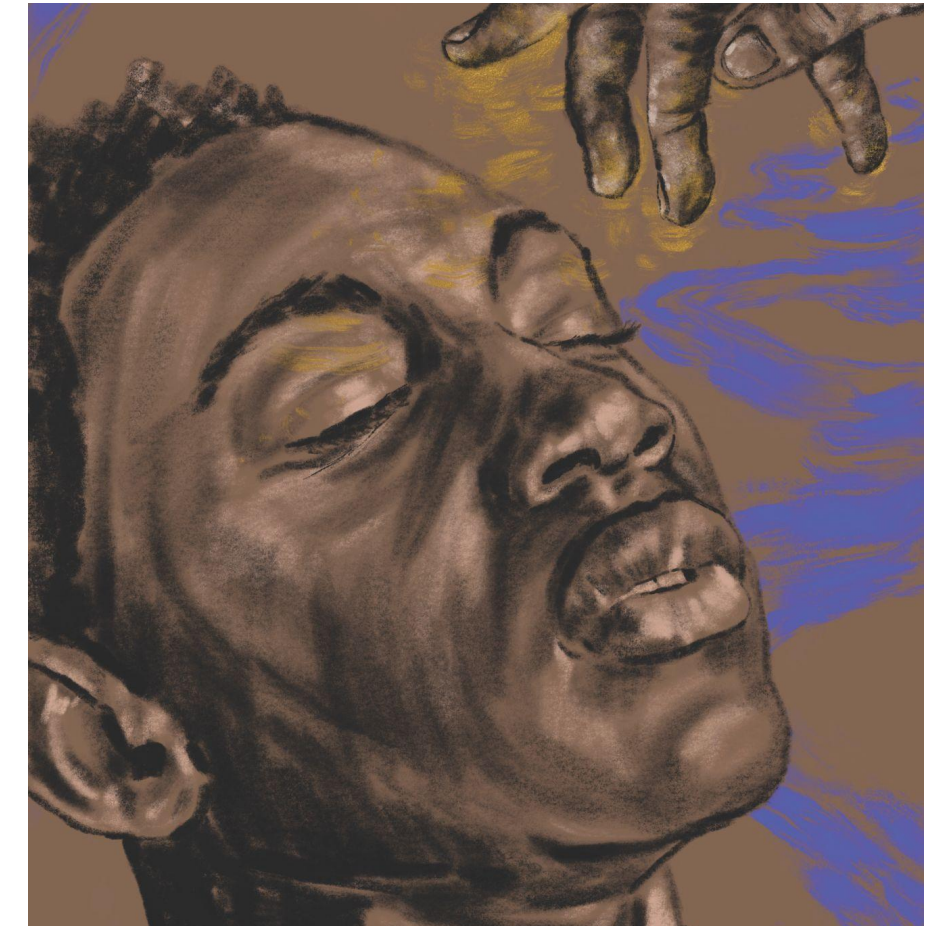
BCPC Elders: Mark Brannon, Drew Campbell, Kyle Colley, Cathy Evans, Martha Rich, Carol Sussman, Dan Manley, Bob Jordan, Sammi Birchfield

BCPC Staff: Pastor: Rev. Beth Newman
Minister of Music: Rev. Rachel Lackey
Office Administrator: Elise Bryson
Nursery: Josie Parker
Custodian: Renee Mercer

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Bryson City Presbyterian Church

March 19, 2023



311 Everett Street, PO Box 549, Bryson City, NC 28713
828-488-2480

Mission Statement of Bryson City Presbyterian Church

We seek to follow Jesus Christ as we . . .

Engage and encourage one another in worship and fellowship

Learn together as we grow in discipleship and

Reach out in love.